

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action<sup>1</sup>, the Examiner objected to claims 28, 36, and 44; rejected claims 25-48 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; rejected claims 25, 27-33, 35-41, and 43-48 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,266,577 to Popp et al. ("*Popp*"); and rejected claims 26, 34, and 42 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Popp* in view of U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2004/0002790 to Senn ("*Senn*").

Applicants amend claims 25-48. Claims 25-48 remain pending.

Applicants have amended claims 28 and 36 to correct informalities objected to by the Examiner (Office Action at page 2) and other minor informalities. Claim 44 is not mistakenly dependent on claim 41, as inferred by the Examiner (Office Action at page 2). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objections to claims 28, 36, and 41.

The Examiner rejected claims 25-48 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, because the claims "fail [ ] to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention" (Office Action at page 3).

The Examiner states that in claims 25, 33, and 41 it "is unclear why the inquiry contains information pertinent to the service request" (Office Action at page 3). Applicants have amended claim 25 to recite "receiving means for receiving an inquiry comprising a service request . . . means for preparing a list of data or programs that

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<sup>1</sup> The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

may be provided to the robot apparatus based on services requested in the service request." Applicants have similarly amended claims 33 and 41.

The Examiner states that in claims 27, 35, and 43 the "term 'the supplementary information' has not been previously introduced" (Office Action at page 3). Applicants have amended claims 27, 35, and 43 to recite "supplementary information" instead of "the supplementary information."

The Examiner states that in claims 28, 36, and 44 the term "'results' lack of proper antecedent basis . . . Further, it is unclear where to and from the method for selected program is being returned" (Office Action at page 4). Applicants amended claim 28 to not recite "results" and to recite "returning", in response to the selection from the list, an access method for accessing the selected data or programs to the robot apparatus" (emphases added). Applicants have similarly amended claims 36 and 44. The Examiner also states that in claims 28, 36, and 44 "selection from said robot apparatus" possesses no antecedent basis (Office Action at page 4). Applicants amended claims 25, 33, and 41 to recite "receiving a selection," and, therefore, now provide antecedent basis for "selection" for dependent claims 28, 36, and 44, respectively.

The Examiner states that in claims 31, 39, and 47 it "is unclear what is meant by the term 'deficit'" (Office Action at page 5). Applicants amended claims 31, 39, and 47 to recite, "specifying needed functions for the robot apparatus to render the services requested . . . comparing the needed functions to the list of functions to determine functions deficit in the robot apparatus, among the needed functions"(emphases added).

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 25-48 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 25, 27-33, 35-41, and 43-48 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Popp*.

Claim 25, as amended, recites an information providing apparatus including, for example,

receiving means for receiving an inquiry comprising a service request and information of the robot apparatus from the robot apparatus;

preparing means for preparing a list of data or programs based on services requested in the service request and the information of the robot apparatus and for returning the list to the robot apparatus.

*Popp* does not disclose at least the means or preparing a list of data or programs of claim 25.

*Popp* discloses,

a method . . . for reconfiguring robots 120 of robot network 100. . . .

the method begins with each robot 120 transmitting status information to NCC (Network Command Center) 110 . . . the status information includes performance data defining the robot's performance in completing its assigned task. . . .

the performance data is based on selected criteria and provides a quantitative basis for indicating the performance or fitness of robot 120 . . . NCC 110 evaluates the performance data received from each robot 120 and determines which robot 120 is the 'most fit' or performing best based on the selected criteria (step 320). In particular, NCC 110 ranks robots 120 by their respective transmitted performance data

(col. 4, lines 33-60) (emphases added). A rank of robots based on their respective performance data does not teach or suggest "a list of data or programs based on

services requested in the service request and the information of the robot apparatus" (emphasis added), as recited in claim 25.

Accordingly, *Popp* cannot anticipate claim 25. Independent claims 31, 33, 39, and 41, though of different scope than claim 25, are allowable over *Popp* for at least the same reasons as claim 25. Claims 27-30, 32, 35-38, 40, and 43-48 depend from claims 25, 33, and 41, and are thus allowable over *Popp* for at least the same reason as claims 25, 33, and 41.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 26, 34, and 42 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Popp* in view of *Senn*. A *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

Claims 26, 34, and 42 depend from claims 25, 33, and 41, and are thus allowable over *Popp* for at least the same reason as claims 25, 33, and 41, respectively. *Senn* fails to cure the deficiencies of *Popp*.

*Senn* discloses, a "method for building . . . 'Sensitive Applications' . . . These applications have the potential to give the impression of working towards goals, reacting 'emotionally' and 'understanding' feelings" (Abstract). *Senn* does not teach or suggest "preparing a list of data or programs based on services requested in the service request and the information of the robot apparatus," as recited in independent claim 25 and similarly recited in independent claims 33 and 41.

Accordingly, *Popp* and *Senn* fail to render the subject matter of dependent claims 26, 34, and 42 obvious.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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